

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 5 and 10 are objected to; and claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 are rejected. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10 and 11 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,593,505 (Russell), Applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 11, and submits that claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

Russell '505 discloses frame members 14 secured to the underside of all panel 10 where the frame members can be adjacent an outlet 22 (column 2, lines 41-45). Wing portions 35 of upper mounting clips 34 serve to retain in place base cover members 46 which are releasably retained thereon by upper and lower inwardly directed top and bottom flange members 48 (column 3, lines 9-12). A pair of spaced compartments are provided along the underside of the power distribution raceway for receiving communication cables and the like in the form of a flexible U-shaped boot 50 (column 3, lines 14-17). Base covers 46 may be provided with aperture 60 therethrough adjacent each of frame members 14 in order to provide electrical convenience outlets 22 in connection with a terminal block mounted in the electrical component receiving aperture 18 (column 3, lines 36-40).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

a modular wall panel including a base cover with at least one aperture; . . . at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding and supporting said electrical receptacle, said receptacle mounting bracket having at least one attachment element connected to at least one of said modular wall panel and at least one said channel, said electrical receptacle protruding through both at least one said aperture and at least one said receptacle mounting bracket.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell '505 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

In further contrast, claim 6, as amended, recites in part:

An electrical distribution harness for a modular wall panel having a base cover with at least one aperture . . .
 at least one receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially surrounding and supporting said electrical receptacle, said receptacle mounting bracket having at least one attachment element configured for connection to at least one of the modular wall panel and said at least one channel, said electrical receptacle configured for protruding through both at least one said aperture and at least one said receptacle mounting bracket.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell '505 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

In further contrast, claim 11, as amended, recites in part:

A method of connecting an electrical receptacle to an electrical distribution harness for a modular wall panel having a base cover with at least one aperture, comprising the steps of: . . .
connecting the electrical receptacle into said electrical connector;
 placing a receptacle mounting bracket over the electrical receptacle such that a cutout at least partially surrounds and supports the electrical receptacle;
 attaching said receptacle mounting bracket to the electrical distribution harness;
and
inserting the electrical receptacle through at least one said aperture.

(Emphasis added.) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Russell '505 or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Russell '505 discloses base covers which may be provided with apertures therethrough adjacent each of the frame members in order to provide access to electrical outlets. Russell '505 fails to disclose or suggest a receptacle mounting bracket having a cutout at least partially

surrounding and supporting the electrical receptacle, where the electrical receptacle protrudes through both the aperture in the base cover and the receptacle mounting bracket.

An advantage to the present invention is that receptacle mounting bracket provides positive support for the electrical receptacle and holds the electrical receptacle firmly relative to the electrical distribution harness to maintain good connection with the electrical distribution harness and to avoid damage to the electrical receptacle and/or the electrical distribution harness.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 1, 6 and 11, and claims 2-4 and 7-9 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,381,994 (Welsh). Welsh '994 discloses cover plates 110 positioned such that receptacles 130 extend through holes 116 (column 4, lines 50-53). The amendment described above for claim 11 distinguishes claim 11 from the cited prior art including Welsh '994. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 11 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

At page 3 of the Office Action claims 5 and 10 are indicated allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, for which courtesy the Examiner is thanked. Applicant has amended claim 5 to include the limitations of original claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 10 to include the limitations of original claim 6. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 10 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are

therefore, in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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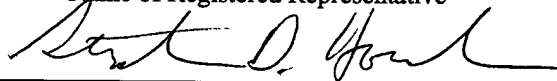
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: June 29, 2005.

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Name of Registered Representative



Signature

June 29, 2005

Date